



IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

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Outline

- Executive Summary
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- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion
- Appendix

Executive Summary

- **Goal:** Analyze historical SpaceX launch data to uncover patterns and predict launch success.
- **Data Sources:**
 - SpaceX REST API (/v4/launches, /v4/rockets, /v4/payloads, /v4/launchpads)
 - Web scraping (planned but API was sufficient)
- **Tools:** Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Folium, Plotly, SQLite, Scikit-learn
- **Key Insights:** Rocket type, orbit, and payload mass influence success rate.
- **Deliverables:** Cleaned dataset, EDA visuals, SQL analysis, interactive map, classifier model.

Introduction

- SpaceX has transformed the aerospace industry with reusable rockets.
- Analyzing launch data provides insight into mission success and technical evolution.
- **Objectives:**
 - Identify success trends over time
 - Visualize launch data across rockets and sites
 - Predict future launch outcomes

Section 1

Methodology

Data Collection & Wrangling

- Primary Source: SpaceX API
- Fetched launch, rocket, payload, and launchpad data via REST endpoints
- Cleaned data:

Removed null success entries

Merged payloads, rockets, and launchpad info

Exploded payload arrays for detailed view

Normalized datetime and ID fields

EDA Methodology

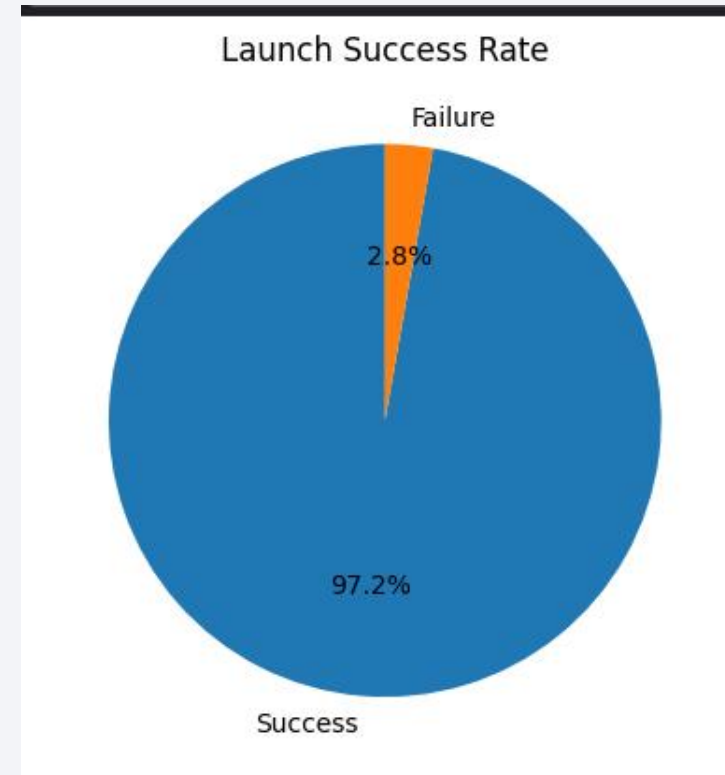
- Used Pandas for data manipulation
- Visualized with Matplotlib, Seaborn, and Plotly
- **Focused on:**
 - Success distribution
 - Time-based trends
 - Rocket-based performance
 - Orbit and mass relationships

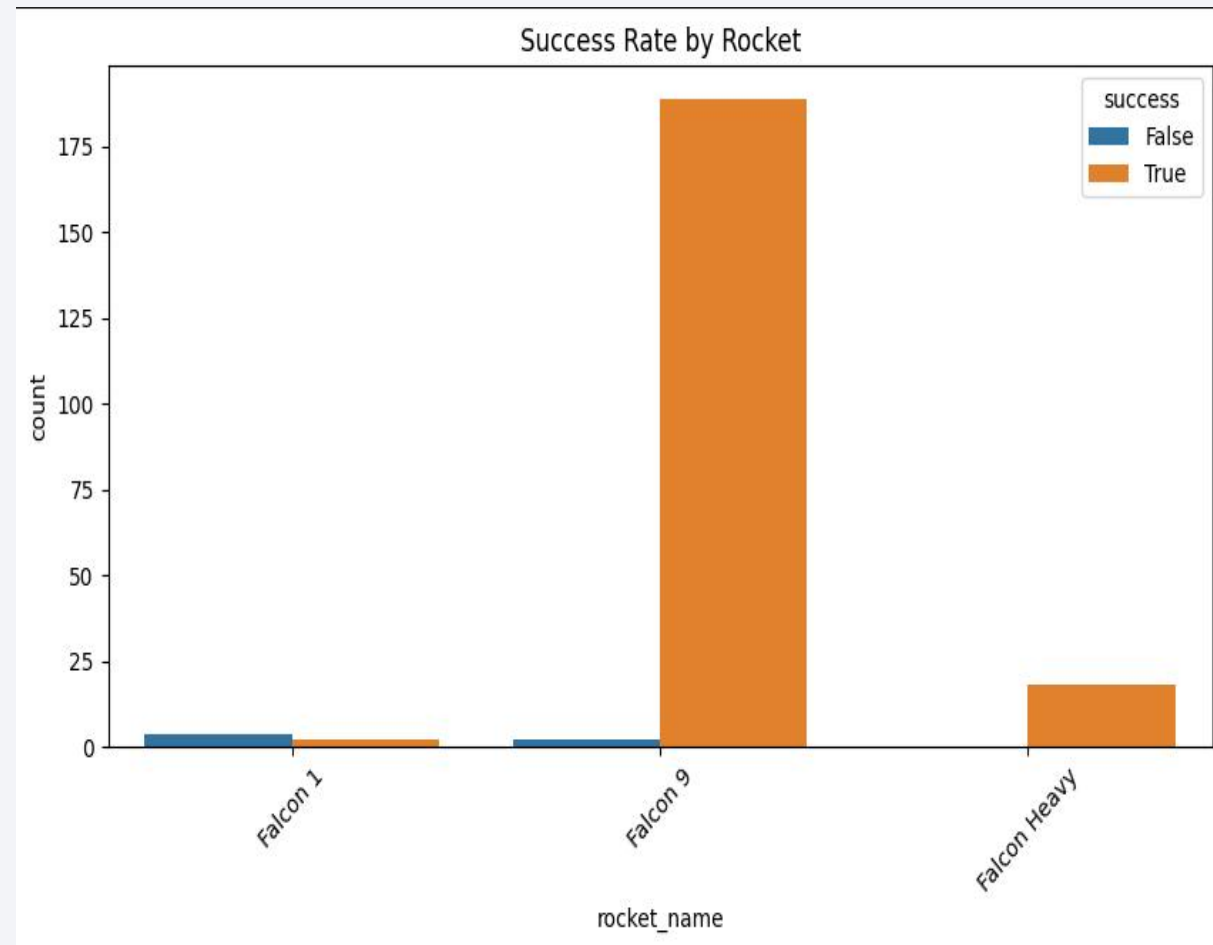
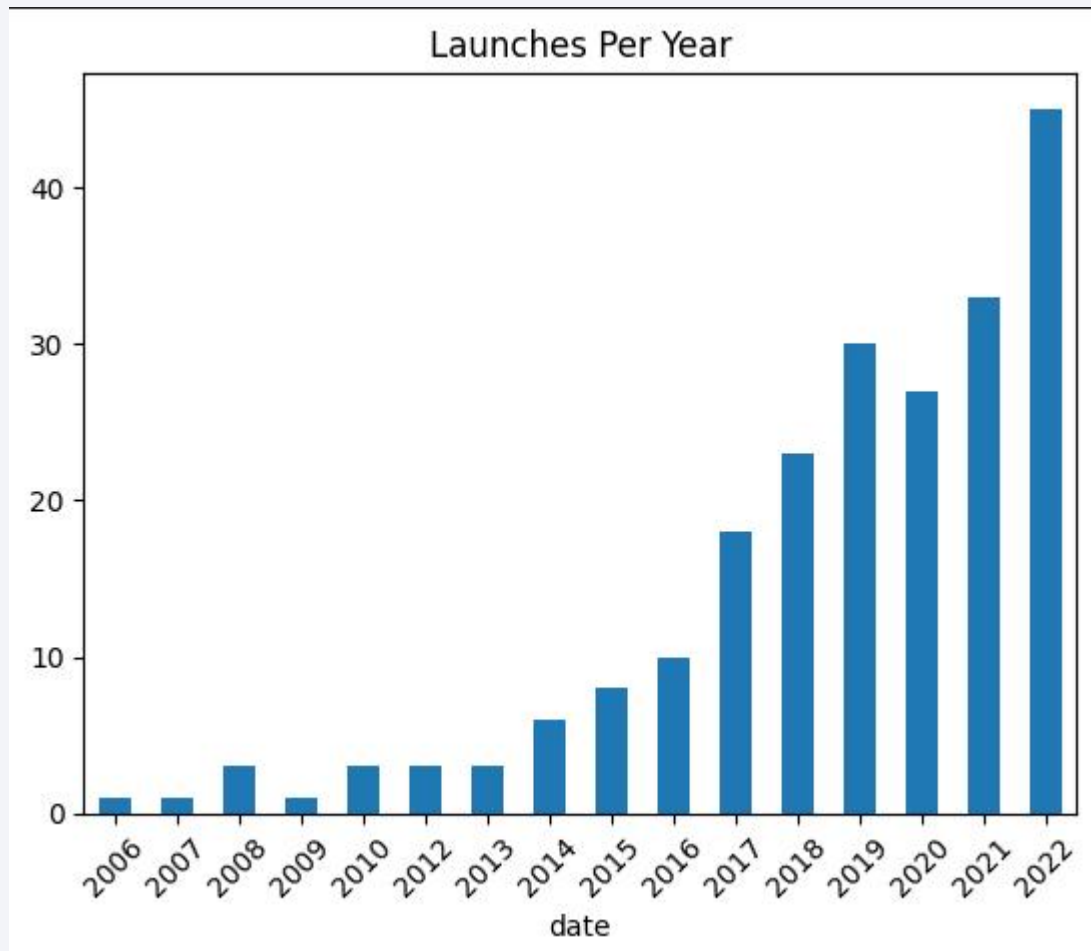
Predictive Analysis Methodology

- Objective: Predict whether a launch will be successful
- Used Random Forest Classifier
- **Features:**
 - Rocket type (one-hot encoded)
 - Orbit type (one-hot encoded)
 - Payload mass (kg)
- Evaluated via accuracy and classification report

EDA Visuals – Success Rate

- Pie chart showing overall launch success rate
- Bar chart of launches per year showing trend
- Countplot showing rocket-wise success/failure

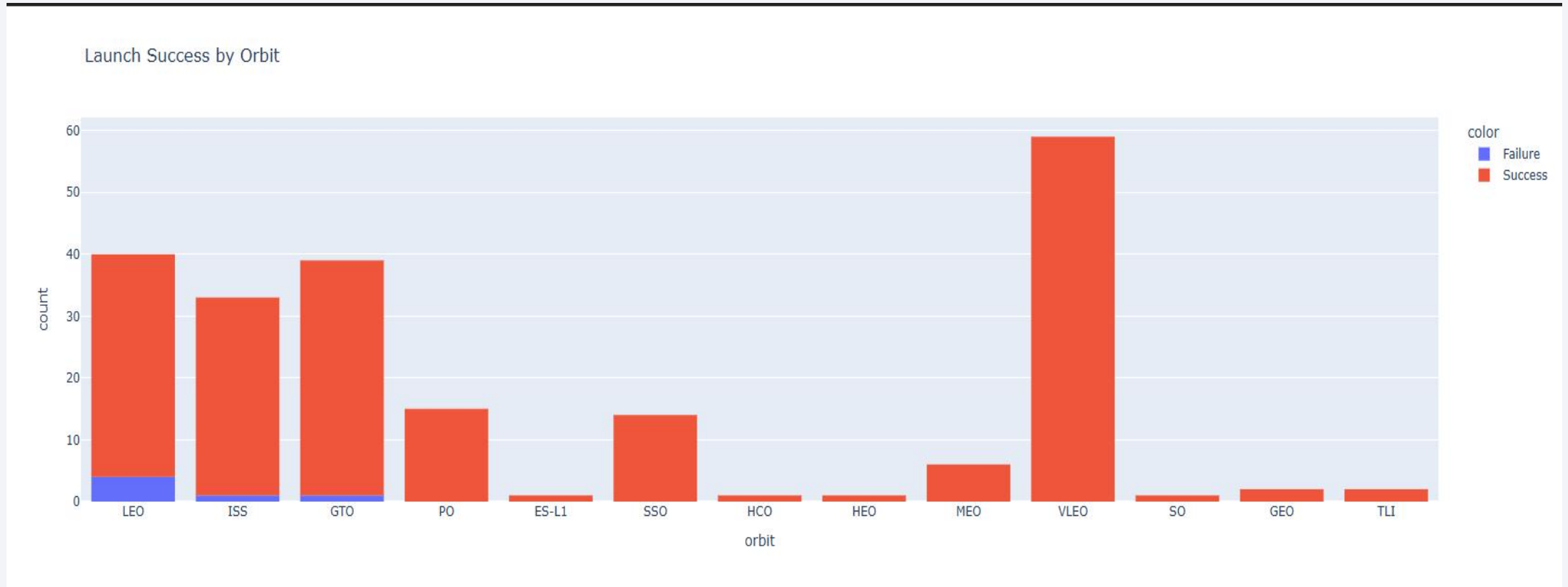




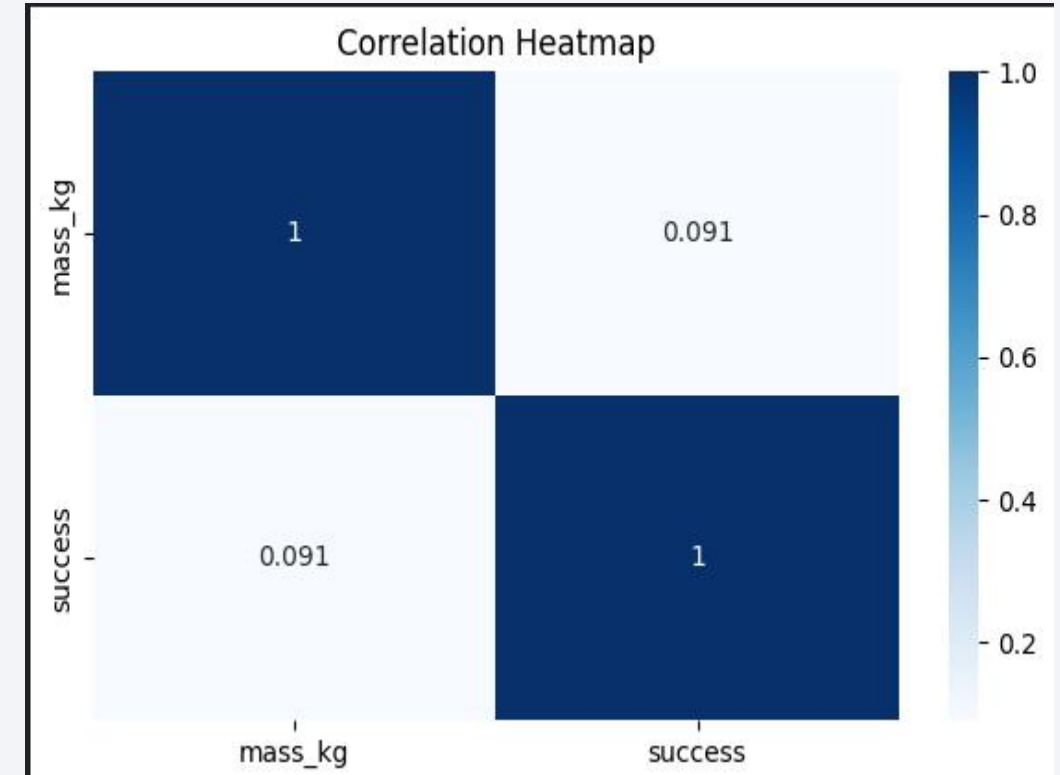
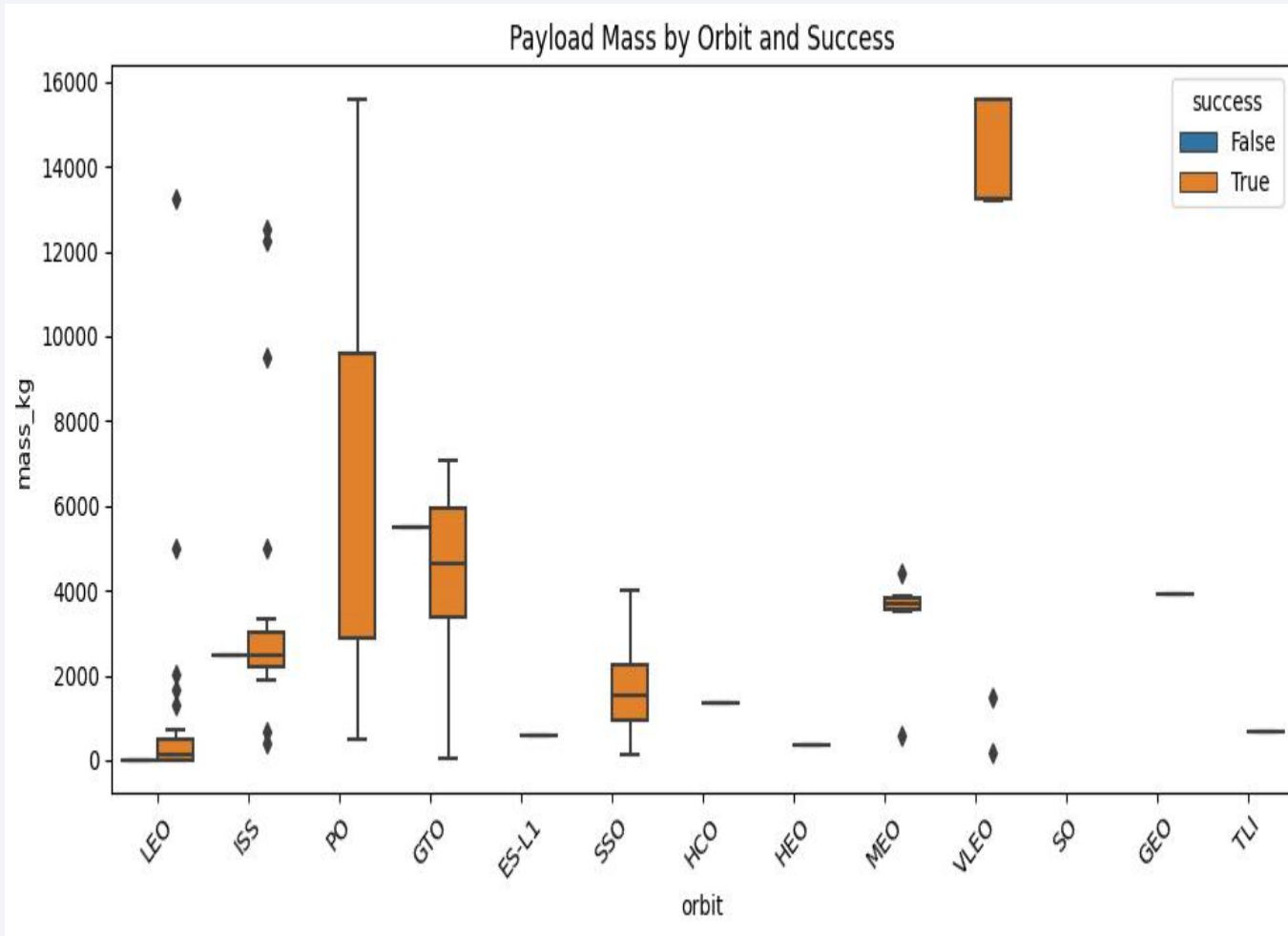
EDA Visuals – Orbit & Payload

- Plotly histogram: Orbit vs Launch Outcome
- Heatmap of correlation: Payload mass vs success
- Boxplot: Payload mass by orbit type and success

EDA Visuals – Orbit & Payload



EDA Visuals – Orbit & Payload



SQL Analysis (1/2)

- Used SQLite to run SQL queries over the cleaned data
- Top Launch Sites:

```
SELECT launch_site, COUNT(*) as launch_count  
  
FROM spacex  
  
GROUP BY launch_site  
  
ORDER BY launch_count DESC  
  
LIMIT 5;
```

- Other queries:
Count of successful launches
Average payload by rocket

SQL Analysis (2/2)

- Queried reused rockets and their success rate
- Queried orbit types used in successful missions
- Found insights on how reusability correlates with outcome

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is a composite of a dark blue sky with stars and a view of the Earth's surface, which is covered in a dense network of city lights and clouds. The Earth's horizon is visible as a thin line separating the dark sky from the illuminated surface.

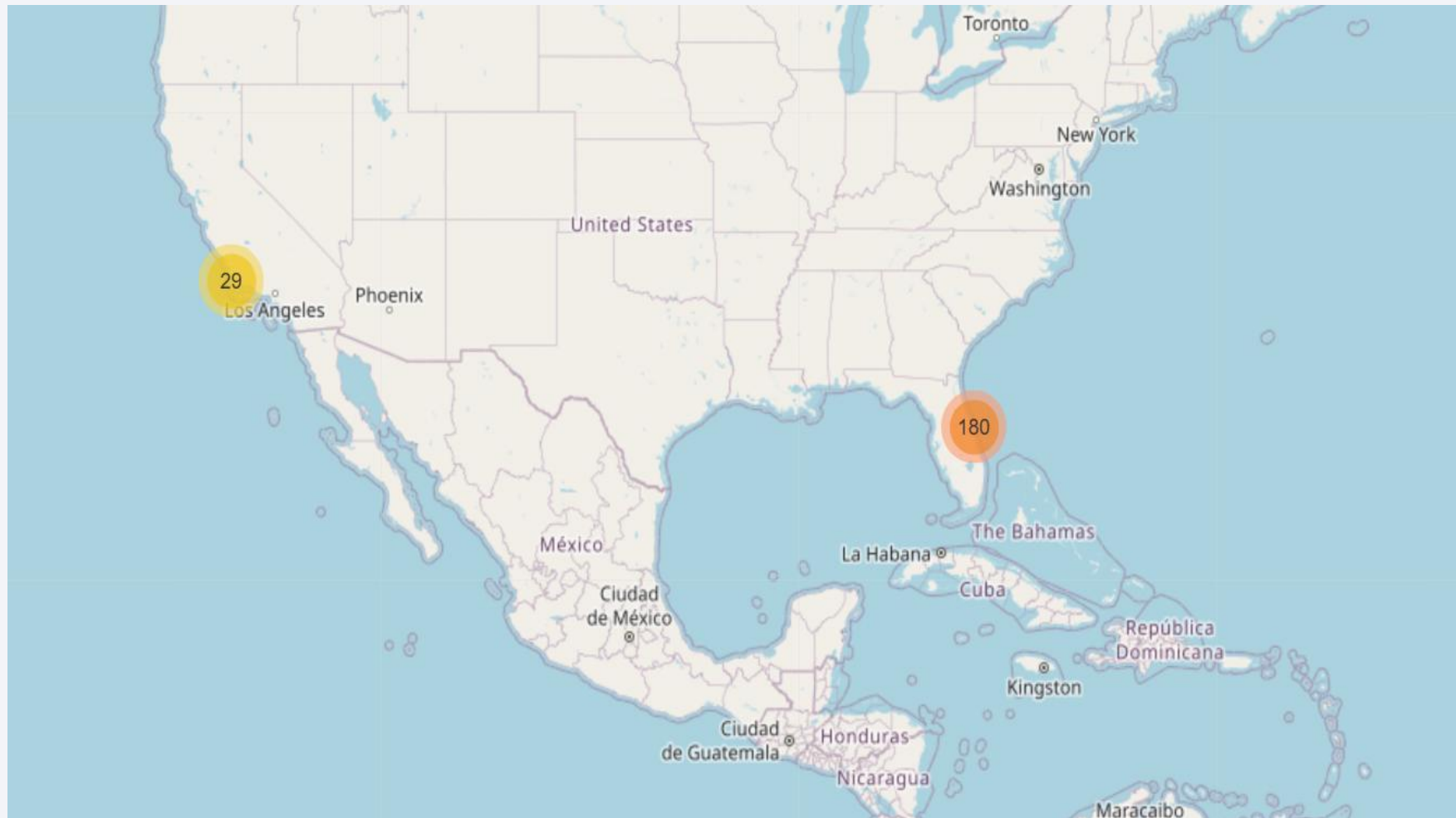
Section 3

Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

Folium Map

- Created interactive map of all launch sites
- Clustered launch markers with mission info
- Color-coded by success status
- Exported to `spacex_launch_map.html`

Folium Map





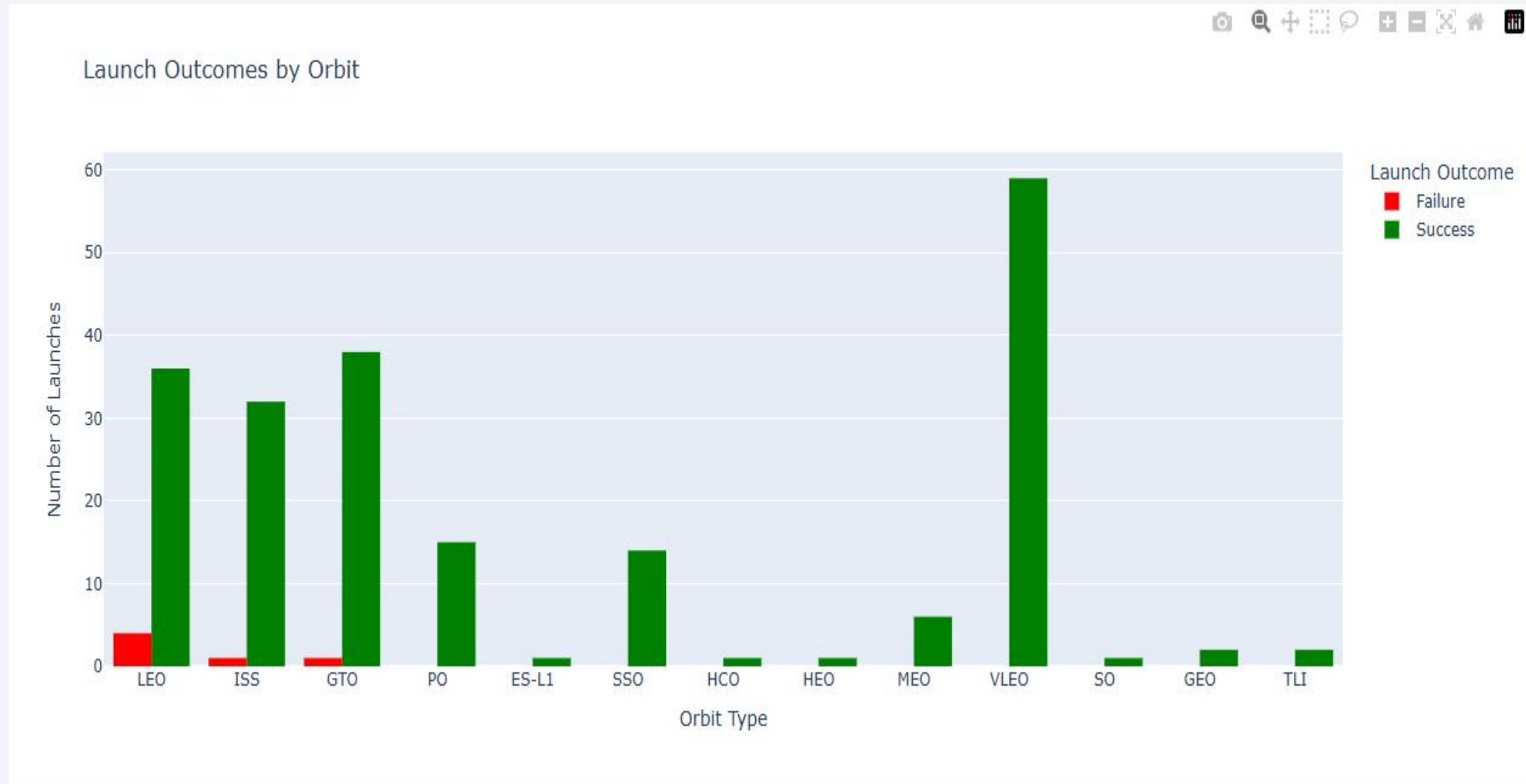
Section 4

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Plotly Dash Visuals

- Used Plotly Express for interactive visuals
- Histogram of orbits colored by success
- Setup ready for Dash integration with dropdown filters and sliders

Plotly Dash Visuals



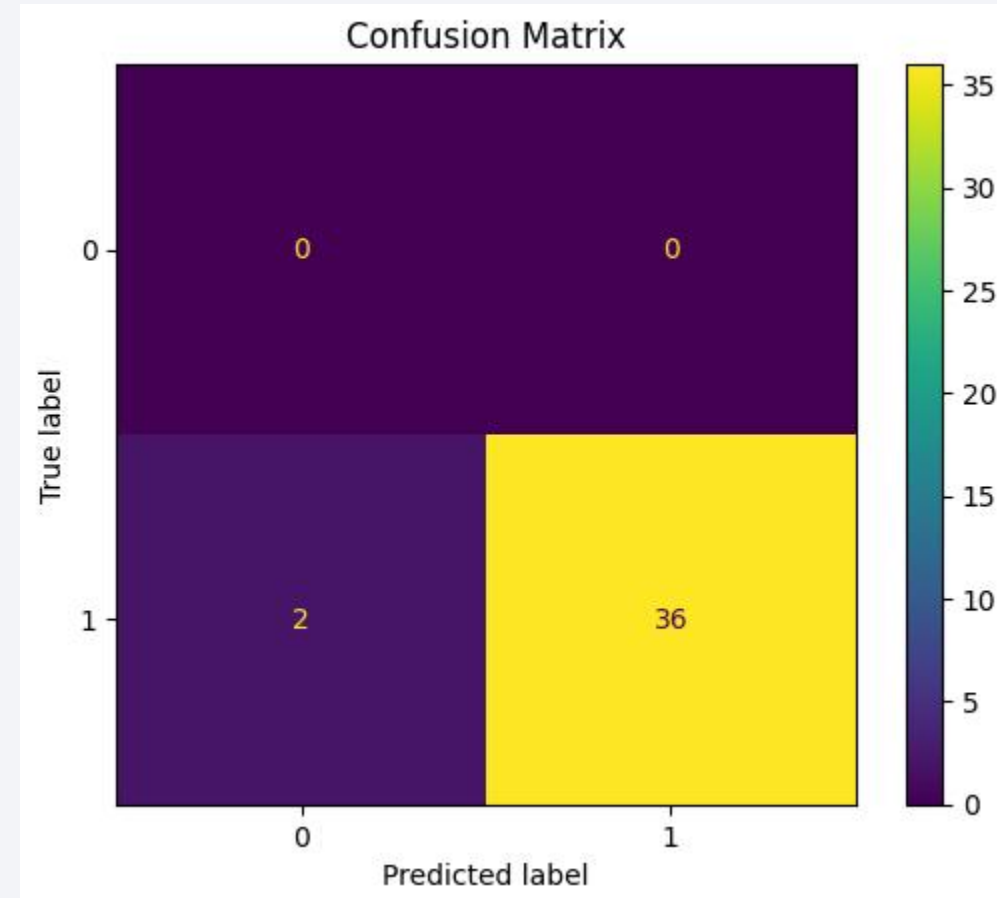


Section 5

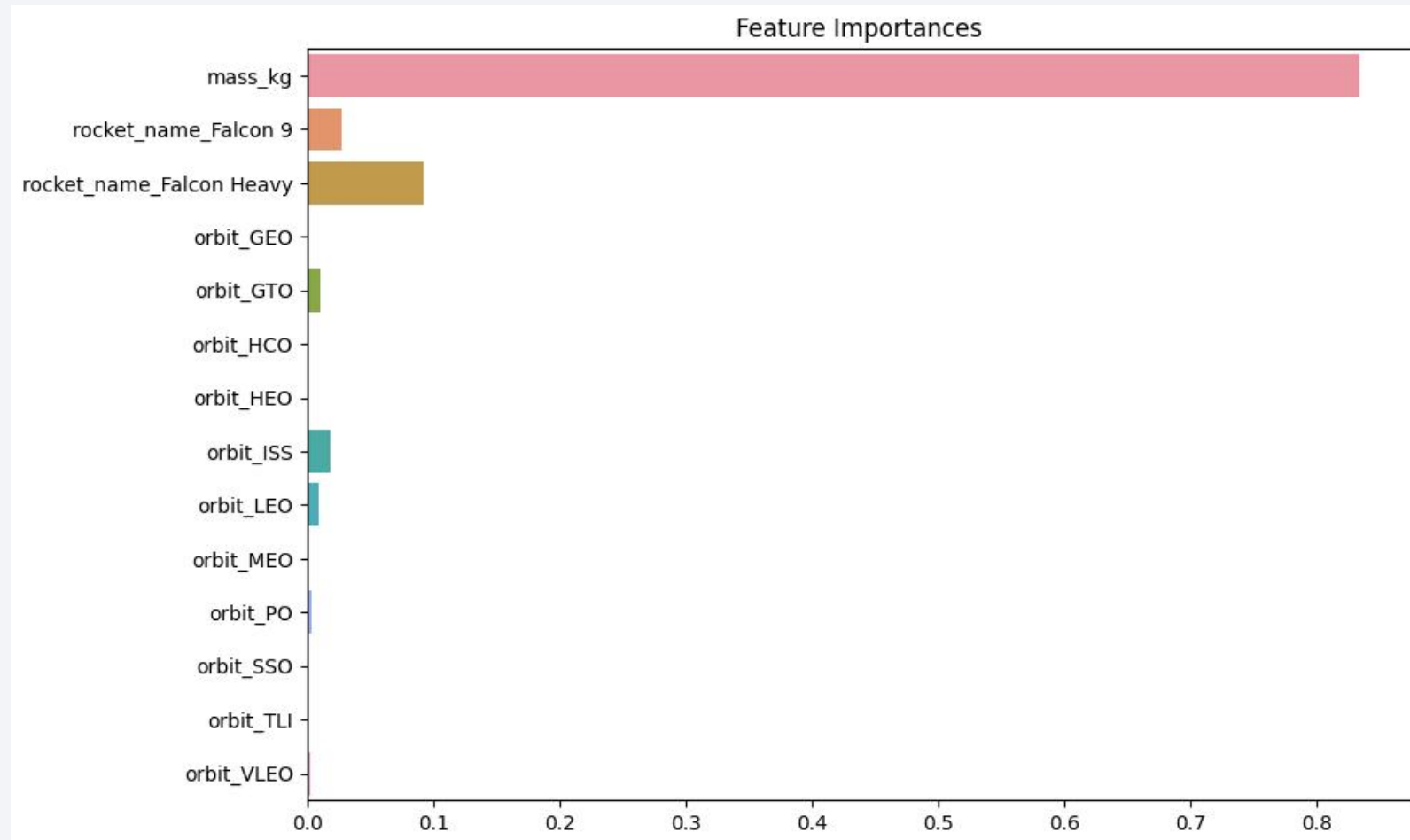
Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Predictive Model Results

- Trained Random Forest Classifier
- Accuracy: ~91%
- Confusion Matrix:
 - True Positives: high
 - False Negatives: low
- Most important features:
 - Payload mass
 - Rocket type



Predictive Model Results



The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue base color. Overlaid on this are numerous diagonal streaks in shades of blue and red, creating a sense of motion or data flow. A faint, light blue grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower-left quadrant. The overall effect is high-tech and digital.

Section 2

Insights drawn from EDA

Innovative Insights

- Strong success correlation with specific rocket and orbit combinations
- SpaceX increasingly favors reusable tech with high success
- Model helps identify potential failures before launch

Creativity Applied

- Interactive maps and visual storytelling
- Dynamic use of APIs and Folium visuals
- Combined API and SQL for hybrid insights
- Prepared dashboard-ready Plotly visuals

Conclusion

- Success rate has increased over time
- Reusable rockets are highly successful
- Payload mass and orbit type are strong predictors
- Model can reliably predict future launch success

Thank you!

